

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of the Claims:

### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine  $[(1)]$  with cylinder bores  $[(9)]$  arranged in a cylinder drum  $[(4)]$ , pistons  $[(10)]$  which are axially movable in the cylinder bores  $[(9)]$  and springs  $[(22)]$  arranged in the cylinder bores  $[(9)]$ , each piston  $[(10)]$  being pre-stressed against a swash plate  $[(13)]$  by a respective spring  $[(22)]$  which is supported against the cylinder drum  $[(4)]$ , ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each spring  $[(22)]$  has a reduction in diameter  $[(23)]$  between the upper and lower end.
2. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each of the springs is a helical compression spring  $[(22)]$  and in that the reduction in diameter  $[(23)]$  reduces the diameter of the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$  in a radially symmetrical circle at each point of the center axis of the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$ .
3. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter  $[(23)]$  is arranged coaxially with the centre axis of the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$ .
4. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter  $[(23)]$  reduces the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$  concavely.

5. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter  $[(23)]$  reduces the diameter of the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$  most greatly at the height of the centre of the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$ .
6. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter  $[(23)]$  extends from the upper end to the lower end of the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$ .
7. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the cylinder drum  $[(4)]$  is pre-stressed against a control plate  $[(20)]$  by the helical compression springs  $[(22)]$ .
8. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein each helical compression spring  $[(22)]$  is supported in the region around an opening  $[(21)]$  of the cylinder bore  $[(9)]$ , which can be connected to a high pressure or low pressure connection.
9. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein each piston  $[(10)]$  has a cutout  $[(16)]$  which opens towards the cylinder bore  $[(9)]$ .
10. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cutout  $[(16)]$  is cylindrical.
11. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 9 or 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the helical compression spring  $[(22)]$  is supported against the respective base of the cutout  $[(16)]$ .

12. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding~~  
~~claims, characterised in that~~ wherein each helical compression spring ~~[(22)]~~ is made from  
and/or coated with spring steel.